

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1952.

W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. T. WOODS,
M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT
For the year 1952

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Tarvin Rural District for the year 1952.

The National Vital Statistics show a slight decrease in the Birth, Death and Infant Mortality rates. Locally the Birth and Infant Mortality rates are slightly higher and the Death rate slightly lower than in the previous year.

Measles (123 cases) and Whooping Cough (54 cases) were the most prevalent Infectious Diseases. The incidence of other Infectious Diseases was low. For the fifth successive year no case of diphtheria was reported. It is, however, important to remind the public that diphtheria still kills; and elimination of this disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation.

From the comprehensive report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, it will be observed that there has been marked progress in re-housing and the relief of overcrowding.

The extension of water mains proceeds satisfactorily and there are signs of improvements in sanitary accommodation at certain schools in the district.

It is hoped that sewerage schemes for Kelsall, Tarvin and Waverton, will soon be commenced, and thus complete the sewer-ing of the larger centres of village population.

I wish to thank Mr. Woods, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and his staff for their industrious efforts and loyal co-operation throughout the year.

Included at the end of the Report, is my Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services oper-ating in the South West Cheshire Division, of which Tarvin Rural District forms part.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Councillor	Charles Moss (Chairman).
"	J. Johnson (Vice-Chairman).
"	T. B. Stevenson.
"	H. E. Mottershead.
"	F. Newport.
"	P. Matthews.
"	H. Fleet.
"	G. W. Penk.
"	G. Harding.
"	Rev. E. H. Barnes.
"	H. G. Lloyd.
"	H. Lewis.

Ex-Officio:

"	L. N. Jones, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).
"	J. C. Wolley Dod, J.P. (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B. (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Rodent Officer, and Petroleum Officer:

G. T. Woods, M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.; Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute; Certificate of the R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works; Examination of Institution of Sanitary Engineers; Home Office Civil Defence Instructor's Special Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

G. P. Walpole, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

R. Mason, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board, Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute; Home Office Civil Defence Instructor's Certificate.

Clerk: G. P. Davies.

Clerk-Typist: Miss Dorothy Hughes.

Rodent Operative: E. H. Blackburn.

MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Assay Office, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examinations respectively.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness and accident are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulances of the Cheshire County Council supplemented by the Chester City Ambulances as an Agency Service.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purposes of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

- (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics**, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas—Infant Welfare.

Hoole—Ante and Post-Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic, Dental and Speech Therapy.

Chester—Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

Northwich—Scabies Treatment.

- (e) **Hospitals.**

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz. Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Larger hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area — 62,593 acres.

Population, estimated by Registrar General, Midyear, 1952	14,550
Number of inhabited houses including shops with living accommodation according to Rate Books (end of 1952)	4,899
Number of houses built (i.e. completed in 1952):	
Private Enterprise	17
Council Houses	69
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1952	£77,971
Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1952	£304

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1952

Births.

LIVE BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	122	123	245
Illegitimate	7	3	10
	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 126	<hr/> 255

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	17.53
Registrar Generals Comparability Factor for Births	1.05
Corrected Birth rate	18.41

STILL BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	6	6	12
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 12

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	44.94
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	0.82

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES

ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES			ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES		
1936	13.2	14.8	1945	15.9	16.1
1937	15.7	14.9	1946	19.5	19.1
1938	14.9	15.1	1947	20.7	20.5
1939	15.7	15.0	1948	22.6	17.9
1940	15.0	14.6	1949	17.9	16.7
1941	15.8	14.2	1950	18.0	15.8
1942	17.6	15.8	1951	17.1	15.5
1943	18.5	16.5	1952	18.4	15.3
1944	17.7	17.6			

Deaths.

MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
87	95	182
Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		
		12.51
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths		0.91
Corrected Death Rate		11.38

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES

ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES			ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES		
1936	13.3	12.1	1945	12.9	11.4
1937	10.9	12.4	1946	13.6	11.5
1938	11.5	11.6	1947	12.7	12.0
1939	13.7	12.1	1948	12.3	10.8
1940	14.1	14.3	1949	11.0	11.7
1941	10.7	12.9	1950	11.6	11.6
1942	10.1	11.6	1951	12.3	12.5
1943	11.3	12.1	1952	11.4	11.3
1944	12.6	11.6			

Maternal Mortality (excluding Abortion)

From Puerperal Sepsis	—
From Other Puerperal or Maternal Causes	1

(Registered Cause of Death:—

(a) Cortical necrosis of kidneys.

(b) Toxaemia of pregnancy).

Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths) 73

TABLE SHOWING NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

1936	2	1945	57
1937	50	1946	85
1938	52	1947	117
1939	22	1948	80
1940	13	1949	96
1941	80	1950	77
1942	112	1951	39
1943	104	1952	73
1944	71		

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	5	4	9

Infantile Mortality Rate i.e. deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births 35.3

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE INFANT MORTALITY RATES

ENG. AND			ENG. AND		
TARVIN R.D. WALES			TARVIN R.D. WALES		
1936	71.4	59	1944	40.0	46
1937	70.8	58	1945	58.8	46
1938	52.2	53	1946	56.5	43
1939	63.1	50	1947	59.6	41
1940	53.6	55	1948	46.3	34
1941	51.2	59	1949	23.1	32
1942	26.5	49	1951	33.6	29.6
1943	30.0	49	1952	35.3	27.6

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under FOUR WEEKS of age.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	2	3	5

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

	MALE	FEMALE
Whooping Cough	1	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—
Cancer of all sites	17	9
Leukaemia	1	—
Intra-Cranial vascular lesions	10	17
Heart disease	30	36
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	2
Influenza	—	1
Bronchitis	5	2
Pneumonia	4	3
Other respiratory diseases	—	2
Nephritis	4	—
Congenital malformations; birth injuries	3	3
Road traffic accidents	—	2
All other causes	7	18
Total all causes	87	95

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 26. In the previous year there were 30.

Deaths from Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 66, compared with 77 in 1951.

Deaths from Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions were 27, there were 22 in 1951.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	30	—	—
Cerebro spinal meningitis	1	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—

Measles	123	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	54	—	1
Totals	216	1	1

NUMBER OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT

1936	25	1945	5
1937	10	1946	2
1938	35	1947	1
1939	15	1948	—
1940	27	1949	—
1941	17	1950	—
1942	9	1951	—
1943	6	1952	—
1944	4		

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during the year 1952

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	8	1	1	1	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

The Council have powers under the above Act to arrange for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Quite a number of cases have been investigated during the year and have taken up a great deal of time of the Health Visitors, the Sanitary Inspectors and myself.

In my view these powers of compulsory removal should be used only in extreme cases. The transfer of an aged person for instance from a cottage where he or she has spent a lifetime to strange surroundings in an institution and a completely new environment can result in mental shock to such a person with deplorable consequences.

I am glad to record that fortunately there has been no need for me to represent compulsory removal for any of the cases investigated. The provision of a home help and benevolent supervision by the sanitary inspector and health visitor have proved sufficient to remedy undesirable conditions and permit the patient to remain in his or her own home with its familiar associations.

Two cases were provided with institutional accommodation at their own request.

CANCER RESEARCH

The co-operation of the Council was requested near the end of the year to assist with other authorities in the Liverpool Region in further statistical research sponsored by the B.E.C.C.

This is in relation to certain types of the disease and covers a wide and detailed enquiry into particular cases. The part played by your Public Health Department is to seek special information regarding the site of the dwelling and take samples of soil from the vegetable garden, fruit growing ground or other plots in selected cases.

These samples are sent to Professor Charles Evans, of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry at Bangor University for examination and classification. The investigation is under the control of Dr. Percy Stocks of Chester.

FARNDON WATER SUPPLY

During July a complaint was received that the mains drinking water at Farn don had suddenly developed an unpleasant taste. Investigations were made and samples taken for analysis and the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company were notified and requested to look into the matter.

As a result of the analyses the presence of considerable faecal coli was shown and as a precautionary measure over 320 notices were delivered by hand to consumers in Farn don and District advising them to boil all water intended for dietetic purposes.

The supplier's Water Engineer stepped up chlorination at the works and for a period of four weeks daily samples were taken for analysis by your Sanitary Inspectors from different points in the supply area.

The heavy dosing by chlorine gave rise to further complaints of unpleasant taste but this was fortunately confined to only a few instances.

The cause of the trouble is believed to be a result of the dry summer weather. The upland service water supplying the main reservoir became insufficient to meet normal demand and a supplementary supply was drawn by the Undertakers from the River Dee.

Fortunately the trouble was only temporary and the usual supply was resumed late in August and the "boiling notices" were withdrawn after daily samples had given a satisfactory result. Enquiries reveal that this trouble is not likely to recur in the future as other arrangements are in hand for a supplementary supply in future dry seasons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) Water.

Piped supplies of water are available in the following Parishes of the District:—

PARISHES	SUPPLY
1. Ashton, Mouldsworth and Horton-cum-Peel.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s own source from Springs and Bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation.
2. Kelsall, Tarvin, Pryors Hayes, part of Bruen Stapleford, most of Dudson and Hockenhull.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s bulk supply from Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board (Eddisbury Borehole).
3. Iddenshall and Clotton Hoofield.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s bulk supply from Liverpool Corp'n. Vyrnwy Aqueduct per Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board's mains.
4. Tiverton, Tilstone Fearnall and Beeston.	Tarvin R.D.C.'s bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation.
5. Tattenhall, Huxley & part of Newton-by-Tattenhall, part of Golborne Bellow and part of Hatton.	do.
6. Hampton, part of Edge, and Macefen.	do.
7. Malpas, Cuddington, part of Chorlton, and part of Wychough.	Liverpool Corp'n.
8. Part of Chorlton.	Private Estate Supply, borehole and small Reservoir, Chorlton Hall.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 9. Farndon, Churton-by-Farndon, Churton-by-Aldford, and Edgerly. | Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Co. |
| 10. Part of Edge.
Part of Edge. | Private Estate Supply, Edge Hall.
Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation. |
| 11. Waverton. | Egg Bridge Area. Chester Waterworks Company. |
| 12. Cotton Edmunds. | Eaton Estate—Chester Waterworks Company. |
| 13. Willington. | Willington Estate. |
| 14. Aldersey & Coddington. | Aldersey Estate. |
| 15. Barton, Stretton, Carden and part of Clutton. | Carden Estate. |
| 16. Harthill. | Bolesworth Estate from Tarvin R.D.C. mains. |
| 17. Bickley. | Tarvin R.D.C. from Liverpool Corporation, Vyrnwy Aqueduct per Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board's mains. |
| 18. Broxton. | do. |
| 19. Burwardsley. | do. |
| 20. Shocklach (Part) | Tarvin R.D.C. borehole and elevated tank. |
| 21. Tilston Council Houses. | Private—do. |
| 22. Tushingham (Part) | Tarvin R.D.C. bulk supply from Liverpool Corporation. |
| 23. Threapwood. | do. |

The water supplied by the Liverpool Corporation is from the Lake Vyrnwy Aqueduct and has a total hardness of 1.2 parts per 100,000 and pH value of 6.45.

The water supplied by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board is from the Eddisbury borehole and has an average hardness of 16 parts per 100,000 and pH value of 7.5.

The water supplied by the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company is obtained from (a) moorland gathering grounds (b) mountain adits and (c) boreholes. The average total hardness is about 8 parts per 100,000 with a pH value of 7.3.

The water supplied by the Chester Waterworks Company is derived from the River Dee and has a total hardness of 7 parts per 100,000 and a pH value of 7.27.

During the year approximately 4½ miles of water main were laid by the Council in the District and in consequence the Council now administer approximately 96½ miles of mains.

The additional new mains are as follows:—

PARISH	YARDS
Golborne Manor Ext.	510
Clotton Hoofield and Huxley	1785
Flat Lane, Kelsall	300
Common Lane, Kelsall	534
Tinkwood Farm, Threapwood	587
Willington Road, Clotton Hoofield	427
Tilston 1st Sec.	2427
Malpas (Castle Hill)	1030
Keysbrook Site Water Sec. III	200
Tilston Site Water	100
	<hr/>
	7900
	<hr/>

Water Schemes in Progress.

The following Schemes are in progress.	£
Agden	8260
Newton-by-Tattenhall	3865
Gatesheath — Rookery, Tattenhall	2595
Tarvin Site Sec. 3.	350

Particulars of the number of premises supplied by the Councils mains at December, 1952, are as follows:—

PARISH	DOMESTIC	TRADE	TOTAL
Ashton	104	15	119
Beeston	48	24	72
Bickley	57	41	98
Bradley	—	2	2
Broxton	96	45	141
Bruen Stapleford	7	9	16
Burwardsley	49	38	87
Chorlton	7	6	13
Chowley	2	—	2
Clotton Hoofield	29	23	52
Cuddington	14	20	34
Duddon	24	8	32
Edge	26	10	36
Golborne Bellow	20	3	23
Golborne David	—	8	8
Hampton	54	24	78
Handley	41	8	49
Hatton	8	7	15
Hockenhull	2	1	3
Horton-cum-Peel	6	—	6
Huxley	34	18	52
Iddenshall	—	2	2
Kelsall	281	40	321

PARISH	DOMESTIC	TRADE	TOTAL
Larkton	2	1	3
Macefen	11	6	17
Malpas	354	68	422
Mouldsworth	60	19	79
Newton-by-Tattenhall	14	11	25
Newton-by-Malpas	—	1	1
Oldcastle	—	9	9
Pryors Hayes	3	1	4
Shocklach Church	5	1	6
Stockton	—	3	3
Tarvin	346	72	418
Tattenhall	246	72	318
Threapwood	35	25	60
Tilston	12	—	12
Tilstone Fearnall	21	6	27
Tiverton	135	34	169
Tushingham	3	7	10
Wychough	—	2	2
Shocklach Oviatt	1	—	1
Overton	2	3	5
	<u>2159</u>	<u>693</u>	<u>2852</u>

No. of Standpipes supplied from the mains:—

PARISH	NUMBER CONSUMERS	
Edge	1	35
Beeston	1	19
Hampton	3	20
Newton-by-Tattenhall	1	15
	<u>6</u>	<u>89</u>

Number of premises supplied by other Public Water Undertakings for which figures are available as follows:—

PARISH	DOMESTIC	TRADE	TOTAL	UNDERTAKING
Waverton	79	8	87	Chester Waterworks Company.
Edgerly	1	—	1	Wrexham, and East Denbighshire Water Company.
Churton-by-Aldford	50	2	52	do.
Farndon	151	4	155	do.
Churton-by-Farndon	27	—	27	do.
	<u>308</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>322</u>	

Estimated Population supplied:—

By Tarvin R.D.C.	9294
By Chester Waterworks Company	460
By Wrexham & East Denbighshire Water Co.	962
	<hr/>
	10716
	<hr/>

This represents approximately 72% of the total population of the district supplied by mains water. A number of consumers however are supplied by Estate Supplies, Private Systems, and boreholes etc. The actual percentage of water consumers with supplies laid on is considerably in excess of this figure.

The following schemes are approved by the Council and the Ministry for which materials are on order.

SCHEME	ESTIMATED COST £
Tilston 2nd Sec.	5370
Simmonds Green, Edge	684
Tilstone Fearnall	1430
Cuddington and Oldcastle	2350
Tushingham	4100
Hob Hill and Lowcross Hill, Tilston	1980
Edge Lane, Edge	1116

Schemes in Preparation.

The following schemes are in course of preparation for the provision of water supplies to:—

Hargrave.
Willington—Duddon.
Agden—Higher Wych—Wigland.
Tushingham—Willey Moor.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Schemes completed during the year.

Duddon Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works	114 persons
Clutton Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works	114 persons
Hallowgate Sec. 2 (Sewerage only)	70 persons
Malpas Site Sewerage (extension to existing sewers)	20 persons
Farndon Site Sewerage (extension to existing sewers)	70 persons

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes in progress.

Farndon Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works. The Contract for sewerage and sewage disposal works is proceeding satisfactorily and will provide for an estimated population of 650 persons.

Tilston Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works. Construction of the sewage disposal works by direct labour is proceeding and will be followed by the Sewerage scheme which will provide for an estimated population of 330 persons.

The following scheme is approved by the Council and the Ministry, and materials are ordered.

Ashton Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works. Work will commence on completion of the Tilston scheme.

Schemes in preparation.

The following schemes are in course of preparation for the provision of sewerage:—

Kelsall.

Preparation of this scheme has been completed and the scheme has been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Waverton.

Further discussions have taken place between the County Council and this authority. The Council is pressing the County Council to agree to their proposal to proceed immediately with the sewerage in the part of Waverton situated North of the Canal.

Tarvin.

Work has commenced on the preparation of the village scheme and it is anticipated that the scheme will be presented to the Council at an early date.

Beeston.

Negotiations are taking place with the County Council to take over the sewage disposal works to provide a joint works for the school and adjoining properties.

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending December, 1952.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

The following report for 1952 on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors reflects some of the many public health and allied activities carried on by the Department. In the sections dealing with housing repairs and drainage it will be seen that definite progress is being made by both the Council and private owners in these branches of environmental hygiene and if the Rent Acts were in step with modern conditions still greater improvement in sanitation could be obtained.

It will also be seen from the section on the supervision of food that the figures for tuberculosis found in food animals slaughtered in the District is considerably lower than last year although based on a much greater number of animals inspected. The excellent record of results on ice cream samples is maintained.

During the year the Junior Clerk left the Department for another appointment and in the interests of economy in administration no replacement has so far been made. In consequence preparation of this report and other returns has been somewhat delayed.

I must acknowledge the industry and loyalty of the staff throughout the year and thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence.

To Dr. W. J. Birchall, Medical Officer of Health, I tender grateful thanks for his ready advice, support, and assistance in those difficult and delicate matters which arise from time to time.

Your obedient servant,

G. T. WOODS,

M.R.San.I., M.I.San.E., M.S.I.A.

WATER

During the year regular samples were taken from every main supply of the Statutory undertakers in the District.

In addition many isolated supplies were sampled for analysis and in cases of adverse results, reports were made to your Works and Planning Committee for consideration for mains extensions where suitable. In all cases where a polluted supply was found, full investigations on the site were made to determine the source of pollution and its prevention. Reports on certain of these cases are appended.

A total of one hundred and seventy two water samples were taken during the year, made up of ninety two samples taken from local supplies and eighty from the mains. These were analysed at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

The classification of results of water analyses is made as suggested in the Ministry of Health's Report on "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies" based on the Presumptive Coli count taken in conjunction with the type of supply.

Waters are graded as follows:—

TREATED WATERS.	PRESUMPTIVE COLI
Class 1. Highly Satisfactory	Less than 1
2. Satisfactory	1-2
3. Suspicious	3-10
4. Unsatisfactory	Over 10

Untreated Waters.

Class A. Satisfactory	Under 10
B. Fairly satisfactory	10-25
C. Suspicious	25-50
D. Unsatisfactory	50-75
E. Very unsatisfactory	Over 75

92 samples were taken from mains supplies of Statutory undertakers of which—

- 68 were Highly satisfactory or Class 1;
- 11 were Fairly satisfactory or Class 2;
- 7 were Suspicious or Class 3;
- 6 were Unsatisfactory or Class 4.

The 13 unsatisfactory and 11 Class 2 results were from the Farndon supply during the period of water shortage. Action taken has been recorded elsewhere in the report.

80 samples were analysed from the untreated waters from isolated supplies, with the following results.

- A. 47 from 27 premises.
- B. 8 from 5 premises.
- C. 5 from 3 premises.
- D. 3 from 2 premises.
- E. 17 from 8 premises.

As required by the Ministry the following are brief reports of action taken following the unsatisfactory samples from isolated supplies.

1. **Shallow Well, Handley (1 cottage).**

Mains now available. Owner requested to connect.

2. **Shallow Well, Carrs Lane, Tattenhall (Farm).**

Broken soffit to pump well found permitting access of surface water. This was repaired by owner. A scheme for mains extension which will serve the premises has been prepared by the Council's Engineer.

3. **Roadside Pump on Shallow Well, Cross o' Hill, Malpas (6 cottages).**

The six cottages served by this well have now been connected to the mains water by their owner.

4. **Shallow Well, Bawbrook, Malpas (3 cottages).**

Boiling notices sent to users. mains not readily available.

5. **Shallow Well, Tilston (Holding).**

Awaiting mains supply in parish.

6. **Shallow Well, Horton Green (Farm).**

Sample showed heavy B. Coli and Faecal contamination apparently occurring through ground seepage from a nearby foul drain.

The external walls of the well were surrounded with concrete to a depth of three feet. The offending drain cut off and the iron well cover sealed with grease.

Chlorination of the well followed. Further samples taken proved Grade A.

7. **Land Spring, Edge.**

Supply chlorinated, repeat samples proved satisfactory.

8. **Land Springs, Horton Green (cottage).**

No mains supply available. Boiling notice sent.

9. **Shallow Well, Stretton (cottage).**

Six samples taken during the year all proved Grade E on analysis, the well was chlorinated three times with no improvement in the supply. Boiling notice sent to occupier. No mains available.

10. **Land Springs, Holland Lane, Kelsall** (2 houses).

Check samples later proved satisfactory.

11. **Shallow Well, Shocklach** (Farm).

Not used for domestic purposes; alternative satisfactory supply available.

HOUSING

Progress has been made during the year in the improvement and repairs of house property but the problem of the reconditioning of a great many old rural cottages on a very low rental seems no nearer solution. A great deal of lip service has been paid in the past to the necessity for the revision of the Rent Restriction Acts in relation to the cost of maintenance of property, but nothing concrete has yet resulted and it is an unenviable task to try to get a house owner in straightened circumstances who may have inherited such a house, to carry out even first aid work, the cost of which swallows up several years rent in many cases.

The scarcity of accommodation at a reasonable rent compels the necessity of patching up older properties which should, strictly, be dealt with under Section II.

Another sign of the times is the reluctance of many tenants of such substandard but cheap dwellings to apply for, or even accept, a Council house owing to the tremendous difference in the rents of their cottage and a Council House.

Notwithstanding many difficulties your Sanitary Officers have persuaded the owners of a great many of these old cottages to carry out improvements regardless of the fact that the cost is uneconomic.

In all cases where tenants of substandard dwellings were granted Council houses because of the low standard of their present accommodation Section II procedure of the Housing Act, 1936, has been initiated. In some cases of isolated cottages on farms the owners have given undertakings not to permit the premises to be used for human habitation and they have removed fireplaces, cupboards, etc., and used the shell of the building for housing farm stock. Such action could not follow of course where only lodgers were rehoused.

On a happier note I am glad to report that with the materials supply easing and the relaxing of restrictions there has been great activity on the part of private owners of suitable property to carry out desirable improvements in sanitary facilities and I refer in more detail to this under the Drainage section.

Overcrowding.

An accurate figure for the number of houses or families overcrowded cannot be given without carrying out a District Survey.

It is known however from housing applications investigated by the Department that in 1952 the overcrowding of 134 persons comprising 36 families was relieved by the provision of a Council House.

A great deal of public money is being expended on new housing throughout the country and provided a reasoned and practical policy is sympathetically pursued in regard to the accommodation vacated by new Council tenants, it is very desirable to try to bring up to a reasonable standard or demolish some of those old occupied dwellings which are in extensive disrepair and which are in fact isolated rural slums.

It will be seen from the table of statistics that the number of informal notices have increased on the previous year but it was found necessary to serve only 2 statutory notices on owners under the Public Health Act, 1936.

For reasons explained in the foregoing paragraphs the number of Demolition Orders made remains comparatively low.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts)	791
(ii) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations (Housing Applications)	394
(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous subhead) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	162

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered reasonably fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	130
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil

(b) **Proceedings under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936.**

Number of premises on which Demolition Orders were made	3
Number of premises on which Undertakings were offered by owners	1
Number of premises on which Undertakings were accepted by the Council	1

(c) **Public Health Act, 1936.**

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2
- Outstanding at end of 1951 Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners 2
- By Local Authority in default of owners Nil
- Outstanding at end of 1952 Nil

Council House Tenancies.

The records of housing applications and allocations are supervised by your Chief Housing Officer and full reports on the housing need of each applicant is investigated by personal visits to the house by one of your Sanitary Officers.

The procedure enables the Selection Committee to have reliable reports on the state of the applicant's dwelling, their desirability as a tenant, and any confidential health grounds such as pulmonary tuberculosis etc. of any members of the family, from the records kept by the department, and information supplied by the family doctor.

It is generally recognised that the responsibility of selecting tenants is an unenviable task for any Committee, but I think it should be recorded that while some criticism from disappointed applicants is expected to follow publication of the selected tenants, there has also been congratulation on the Council's fairness from more impartial sources.

During the year 139 new applications were added to the register and 133 applications removed in consequence of rehousing, removal from the district, or for other reasons.

At the close of the year the Housing Application Register totalled 279 comprising, 77 from applicants in agricultural employment and 202 from non-agricultural workers.

New Council Houses occupied during the year totalled 67 (see table) of which 21 were reserved for agriculture. A number

of the new tenants were young married people with children or who desired a family.

Total number of Council Houses tenanted at Dec.	
31st, 1952	481
Total number of above reserved for Agriculture	
	150

POST WAR HOUSING

Houses Tenanted between January 1st — December 31st

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	Total
Ashton	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Beeston	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	6
Nomansheath, Bickley	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Broxton	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
Clutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
Coddington	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4
Duddon	—	8	—	—	—	—	4	12
Edge	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	8
Farndon	—	3	21	—	—	—	10	34
Gatesheath	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8
Huxley	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Kelsall	—	8	—	—	9	13	14	44
Malpas	—	—	11	27	—	—	14	52
Oscroft	—	—	4	2	2	—	—	8
Shocklach	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Tarvin	—	4	—	—	6	—	6	16
Tattenhall (Edgecroft)	1*	1*	—	4	2	—	—	8
Tattenhall	—	16	—	3	13	2	4	38
Tilston	—	—	8	—	4	—	—	12
Tiverton	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	8
Waverton	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Total	1	46	48	49	55	30	67	296

*Conversion of large house to two dwellings.

This table is compiled from the actual dates from which the rents commenced.

Regulation 68a.

Housing conditions in the district are still such as to warrant the renewal of existing licences issued under Regulation 68a of the Defence Regulations to permit occupation of condemned cottages which are maintained up to a minimum standard of fitness. Three such licences were renewed during the year in respect of premises on which Demolition Orders are operative, at Oscroft, Farndon and Malpas. No new first licences were issued.

Premises under Requisition.

Four houses, respectively situated at Tattenhall, Malpas, Threapwood and Farndon, were still held under requisition at the end of the year.

Squatters.

The old army camp at Beeston, which consists of four wooden huts plus one nissen hut used as a wash-house, is still occupied by four families (8 adults, 8 children).

One family of 2 adults and 2 children was rehoused during the year and their accommodation taken over by 2 adults and 1 child.

This hutted camp is sub-standard and can be tolerated only as a temporary measure until the Housing situation is improved.

DRAINAGE

Publicity and education in hygiene and cleanliness has given rise to a general demand for modern sanitary fittings and appliances and in consequence requests for the services of your Sanitary Officers for advice in the construction and layout of treatment works to isolated buildings is increasing. In addition to their academic qualifications they have the advantage of being in everyday contact with small disposal schemes under varying conditions, and they test and observe the comparative efficiency of different types of works. Many old cottages on vacation have been reconditioned, with modern sanitation included, for occupation by their owners or a relative, which would not be undertaken while they were on a restricted low rent to a stranger.

The modernising of farm shippons and new building for purposes of "T.T." milk production continues. The provision of mains water from existing and extending mains throughout the District results in much more shippon and piggery effluent. Foul ditches on a farm are being tolerated by farmers themselves less than ever before and this gives rise to many requests for advice on drainage problems to your Sanitary Officers. Scores of schemes have been prepared to overcome nuisance from farm drainage. The works in most cases have to be constructed by a local builder who could not cope with some types of tanks used in large civil engineering projects.

The Public Health Department has therefore, for the past few years issued free to interested persons a memorandum on farm drainage based on the practical experience of simple works constructed by local labour and operating successfully. This memorandum is kept up to date with new practice and developments in Sanitary Engineering and is supplied free of charge to any person in the District who desires information on this complex subject. Simplicity of design and explanation enables a farmer to see the method most suitable to his particular farm and

the extent of his resources. No standard method can suit every premises with wide variations in available fall, subsoil, site conditions and facilities for final disposal of effluent.

During the year seventy-four drainage schemes were deposited and approved. All involved visits of your inspectors to the sites and a great many incorporated amendments and improvements suggested as a result of such investigations. Many requests for advice on existing septic tank installations were also received by the Department.

Users of new installations are warned as a matter of routine that the main cause of trouble is the excessive accumulation of sludge in the tank which in time is carried over to the filter or into the irrigation drains causing choking of the system.

The tank sludge must be cleared out before it reaches anywhere near the outlet from the first chamber or chokage of the system results. The period taken for this to happen varies widely on the type of tank and nature of sewage — but frequent inspections should be made. To clean relay or extend sludge choked effluent drains because of neglect can be expensive.

Rivers and Streams.

The Tarvin Rural District is in the area of the River Dee and Clwyd Catchment Board and close co-operation exists between your public health officers and the Board's officials.

The Rivers Board is the responsible authority with powers intended to prevent pollution of rivers and streams in their catchment areas, and the efforts of your Sanitary Inspectors to improve drainage effluents, particularly those from farms with a high pollution load is continuing side by side with the work of the board.

Your Works Committee are also giving urgent attention to the sewage schemes for Kelsall and Tarvin, where pollution of watercourses is very evident, particularly in the summer months.

The sewerage schemes approved for Ashton should cure the pollution of the village stream which at present is acting as the receiver of sullage and crude sewage effluents from most of the premises there.

General Sanitation.

Closet Accommodation.

New dwelling houses erected during the year by private enterprise have all been supplied with water closets. In addition your Sanitary Officers have been very busy on conversion of pail and privy middens to water closets in the several cases of older premises having improvements carried out to their internal sanitation.

All Council Houses built, except 4 at Duddon and 10 at Farndon awaiting the new main sewer, had water closets installed.

During the year a further 32 pail closets and 6 privy middens were converted to water carriage and 10 abolished. 79 new water closets were installed.

The approximate figures for the whole district at the end of 1952 were:—

Privy middens	517
Pail Closets	1894
Water Closets	2370
	<hr/>
	4736
	<hr/>

REFUSE AND SALVAGE

Reference must be made to the excellent work of the refuse collectors in the Council's service who carry out a difficult, dusty and dull job in all weathers. Despite all the new building carried out since the war and the hundreds of extra dustbins supplied by property owners, the service is being carried on with less labour today than in 1946, but in consequence there is less salvage brought in and the period of collections of refuse from certain isolated premises altered.

In view of rising costs of labour and petrol your Public Health Committee authorised a reorganisation of collections to be brought into operation whereby regular services are restricted to built up areas and the period of collections from occupiers of isolated dwellings, who can dispose of their own cinders and ashes, is extended.

Whilst it is appreciated that very frequent collections of refuse is desirable and indeed most necessary in conurbations the long length of haul involved in going frequently to every isolated premises in a rural area, for a bin almost empty, is both uneconomic and unnecessary and while a few complaints have been received from new residents to this Rural District who have been used to town conditions the new arrangement is working surprisingly well, and has resulted in total costs remaining approximately the same despite wage and petrol increases.

Experience shows that the service is now fully extended to cope with the increasing schedules, and as the rate of building increases further attention to this matter of collections will undoubtedly be called for if the whole district is to continue to be served.

Disposal is by controlled tipping, which has the merit of being cheap and without capital costs, and provides means of bringing back into use disused land. Tipping sites at Common

Lane, Waverton; Stretton and Golbourne Bellow were completed during the year and sealed. Part of the tip at Duddon has been soiled over and seeded by the farmer and is now bearing a corn crop. Altogether about an acre of land was reclaimed here during the year.

A large tipping site which bears historical associations was offered and accepted at Waverton. It is the large pit reputed to be used after the battle of Rowton Moor for the burial of the fallen. In due time this will be brought up to the level of the adjoining land for cultivation.

A great deal of trouble is caused by children and itinerant waste dealers who turn over the tipped refuse after it has been tidied. They disturb rat baits and cause general litter and in some cases have started fires. The co-operation of the police authorities has been sought to attempt to check this practice. Locking of tip gates and warning notices have little or no effect.

The new depot and garage was near completion at the year end and it is expected to be ready for early 1953, when the difficulties in connection with garaging, storage, maintenance and repairs will be considerably eased.

It will also help to encourage the pride of each team in the smart appearance, and care taken with the proper maintenance of the Council's refuse wagons which has been remarked on by Councillors and members of the public alike.

Salvage collection is still carried out on a much smaller scale in conjunction with the refuse collection, but the collapse in the price of waste paper has made large scale collection of this commodity uneconomic as it is difficult to realise costs.

Emphasis on the salvage of metals raised a problem for the Public Health Committee during the year when they received an application from a free lance rag and metal dealer for a Licence to authorise him to turn over the Council's refuse tips in search of any metal to be recovered therefrom.

This request followed a police prosecution for larceny of metal where the defendant pleaded that he had found the metal on a Council tip. The Committee carefully considered the principle involved and decided that even if a person could legally be given a right to turn over material on a tip it would at the same time provide any dishonest person with a ready made alibi as to the source of any stolen metal. The Committee decided NOT to approve such action.

Section 76 of the Public Health Act, 1936, makes it an offence for any person other than an employee of the Council to sort over or disturb tipped refuse, so that it is difficult to see how a private person could be so licensed.

The following table shows details of sales of salvage which were made during the year ending March 31st, 1953, compared with those of the previous twelve months.

	1952-53	Prev. Year.
Waste Paper	£108 9 2	£281 11 0
Scrap Metal	16 2 6	21 0 0
Rags and Sacking	32 14 5	— — —
Bones	4 1 4	1 13 3
	<hr/> £161 7 5	<hr/> £304 4 3

The nett cost of the Refuse Service for the year ending March 31st, 1953, was £4,478.

Camping Sites.

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued by the Council during the year, in relation to sites or individual movable dwellings.

Planning powers have been used to clear the large aggregation of vans and sheds at Weetwood, and in regard to caravans brought into the District for use as permanent dwellings. Most of those at Weetwood site have been removed and the land ploughed up to revert to agricultural use.

During the year an application was approved under planning legislation for a small site at Kelsall for the accommodation of five caravans.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This year has been a busy one following the easing of supplies of materials for repairs; and as mentioned under the section of Housing, much good but unostentatious work has been done in the District by the officials of the Department.

The sanitary inspectors obtained results through verbal requests and persuasion as far as possible without recourse to official statutory action. This explains the low number of formal notices served by the Department. Only in rare cases is it necessary to report a defaulter to the Public Health Committee, and in these the person concerned usually resides at a distance where a personal approach by the sanitary inspectors is impossible.

The following list gives an indication of part of their activities during 1952 where such are not dealt with elsewhere in this report.

Informal Notices served re housing defects	162
" " " " unsatisfactory water supply	25
" " " " defective drainage	37
" " " " dirty conditions	5
" " " " provision of dustbins	15
" " " " insanitary closets	14

"	"	"	"	foul ditches	8
"	"	"	"	leaking gutters & downspouts	4
"	"	"	"	offensive accumulations	3
"	"	"	"	Food & Drugs Act, 1938	10
"	"	"	"	rat infestations	15
"	"	"	"	defects in factories	4
"	"	"	"	Petroleum Spirit Stores	8
"	"	"	"	Food premises	16
"	"	"	"	Licensed premises	2
No. of written complaints received from the public					327
No. of inspections made (all purposes)					4025

Shops.

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950 in respect to the ventilation, lighting, temperature, and sanitary accommodation of shops in the district where labour is employed.

Four cases of defective or dirty sanitary accommodation were found and these were dealt with by verbal caution and the necessary work was done by the occupier.

Factories.

Ninety-two factories are on the register. These include nineteen non-power and seventy-three power, (including 11 building sites). Following inspection a written notice was served on one occupier. This was complied with without further action. Three other cases were dealt with by a verbal caution.

The sanitary accommodation in one factory was found to be out of date and substandard and representations to the principle resulted in the construction of new sanitary conveniences comprising water closets, urinal and wash hand basins with treatment works to replace the existing pail closets.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of inspections	Notices served
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	19	28	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	62	64	1
(3) Roadwork and Building Sites	11	25	—
Totals	92	117	1

Outworkers.

There were no outworkers on the register during 1952.

Smoke Abatement.

Observations on various commercial chimneys were carried out from time to time but no grounds for action were reported.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

Eradication of Insect Vermin.

Where premises are found infested with bed bugs, treatment with Cooper's D.D.T. bed bug spray is used and found effective. Five dwelling houses were treated against vermin during the year.

Gammexane powder is issued to tenants whose dwellings show evidence of cockroaches.

D.D.T. tip dressing is found very effective in destroying infestations of crickets on the Council's tips during the summer months.

Wettable D.D.T. to mix with limewash is sold at cost to the occupiers of slaughterhouses and similar premises in the District to minimise the fly nuisance in the hot weather.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Since the operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949; the Council have been the statutory body with increased responsibilities and powers to deal with the destruction of rats and mice on all properties: agricultural as well as non-agricultural.

The service is subject to grant under approved conditions and kept as self supporting as far as possible. The very nature of the service however creates the position that the more successfully the Council clear premises of rat infestation the less is the demand for commercial contracts from satisfied users, until re-infestation occurs.

The fecundity and travelling habits of rodents demand constant vigilance and re-inspection of premises, if control is to be real. The part played by rats and mice as spoilers of food and vectors of disease is too well known to be minimised.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Rodent Control Division, the County Agricultural Committees are still carrying out their service of pest destruction on farms in this area, and while this in no way affects the right and responsi-

bilities of the local authority to inspect farms and to enter into contracts with farmers for the destruction of rats and mice if they wish, it is obviously undesirable to duplicate a service dealing with rabbits, moles, and other farm pests, if the same personnel can treat for the destruction of rats and mice on the same premises during the visit.

The Council's several tips, sewers, sewerage works and other properties are regularly inspected and disinfested as found necessary.

The first of the biannual 10 per cent test baiting of the Council's Sewers during the year showed a negative return on all systems except Tattenhall where a positive take was recorded.

Treatment was put in hand and on the second test baiting of Tattenhall sewers a negative result was returned. It is believed the infestation occurred when a new connection to the sewer was left open during construction.

The Council are members of Workable Area Committee No. 23 which meets quarterly to hear and discuss new techniques etc. brought to the meeting by the Divisional Rodent Officer of the region. Your representatives on this Committee are the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Rodent Officer. Difficulties and differences are aired at these meetings and advice given and received.

The following table shows the activities of your Rodent Operative for the year ending December, 1952.

No. of visits made	1125
No. of contracts treated (Other than Council Properties)	57
No. of Council Properties treated	57
Amount of bait laid	14432 ozs
Amount of poison bait laid	6742 ozs
No. of dead rats picked up	1413
No. of dead mice picked up	169

Knackers Yard.

A Licence in respect of a knacker's yard at Malpas was renewed.

During the year a complaint was investigated regarding an offensive smell from the premises which led to the detection of a leak in the fume pipe leading from the digester to the furnace. This was remedied.

Schools.

Work was commenced on the improvement of the sanitary facilities at Threapwood School.

Clutton school has been connected to the Council's sewer and closet conversion carried out.

Duddon school is to be connected to the new Council sewer by the Education Authority as soon as estimates permit.

Many desirable improvements are held up on financial considerations but it is hoped that in the future several other conversions and reconstructions will be carried out.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Fifty-eight premises in the District where food is prepared for sale have been frequently visited during the year. Dairy farms are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

This routine work of your inspectors is of great importance to ensure that properly clean conditions and methods are observed in preparing food for sale to the public. A number of improvements have been carried out at the several small caterers in the District who provide for hikers, cyclists and motorists visiting Tarvin Rural District.

Visitors to any district have the right to expect that food and drink purchased by them have been prepared in reasonably clean and hygienic conditions and their main safeguard in this matter lies in the vigilance of the local sanitary officials. No excuse can be accepted for dirty conditions in premises where food is prepared and sold for human consumption.

Milk.

The supervision of milk production is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries but random samples of milk are taken by the County Council for biological examination.

Milk Distributors are registered and Dealers' and Supplementary Licences are still issued by the District Council.

No. of Registered Milk Distributors	12
No. of Dealers' Licences issued	8
No. of Supplementary Licences issued	8

Regulation 20. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No action was found necessary during the year in regard to the restriction of the sale of infected or suspected milk.

In 2 cases of milk borne disease contacts were excluded from milking cows or handling milk vessels.

Ice Cream.

Thirty-two premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream almost all of these are limited to the pre-wrapped product which is less likely to be contaminated than the loose article.

There are a few travelling retailers in the District. Frequent samples are taken by your Sanitary Officers for analysis at the laboratory, and a check is made on the standard of hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicles of retailers.

Reports on the conditions of the premises outside this area where their ice cream is manufactured are received from time to time from the Sanitary Authorities concerned.

No. of samples analysed	78
No. of samples resulting in Grade 1	75
No. of samples resulting in Grade 2	2
No. of samples resulting in Grade 3	1
No. of samples resulting in Grade 4	—

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the District during the year.

Meat Inspection.

Meat Regulations, 1924—Meat Marking.

In June, 1952, the Public Health Committee decided to make application to the Minister for permission to use a special stamp for the marking of meat inspected in the District and passed as fit for human consumption.

Meat marking provides an easy way of showing that a carcass has been examined by a qualified inspector so that any carcass in a slaughterhouse not bearing the stamp has either not been examined or is detained for further examination. Condemned meat is indelibly coloured and cut.

The Mark also shows the identity of the inspector, and ensures that there is no risk of unexamined meat being despatched from the abattoir by mistake, while the inspector is engaged elsewhere on District duties.

No charge is made for meat marking.

Meat Inspection is rightly regarded as one of the most important duties of your Sanitary Officers, who are well qualified and experienced in such work. The number of animals killed and inspected during the year (9,246) showed nearly half as much again as 1951. This increase was in all classes of animals except cows but especially heavy increases in the number of calves, pigs and sheep was recorded. The weight of meat condemned was down for the second year in succession at 78 tons compared with 134 tons for 1951.

The percentage of tuberculosis (all sites) found in beasts, cows and pigs was less than the previous year. 10.9 per cent for

beasts against 20.1 per cent last year, 28.7 per cent against 34.9 per cent for cows and 6.5 per cent for pigs against 9.1 per cent. The figure for calves was unchanged at 0.4 per cent.

This improvement is also shown in the figures showing less weight of meat condemned in a greatly increased kill.

In addition to possessing the normal food inspector's qualification, the Council's inspectoral staff have completed during the year a special evening course of Bacteriology and Laboratory Practice in relation to food inspection, held at Manchester.

The consumer is safeguarded by the inspection service in that diseased meat is condemned at the slaughterhouse while the maximum amount of wholesome meat is saved for the ration.

Central slaughtering at the Ministry controlled abattoir at Newton-by-Tattenhall ensures that 100 per cent inspection of all carcasses takes place. This central abattoir serves an area roughly conforming to the one hundred square miles of the Tarvin Rural District, together with the additional area of Tarporley in the Northwich Rural District.

Two licensed slaughterhouses situated respectively in the approximate north and south of the District deal with casualties exclusively. The carcasses and offal are inspected at these premises and the meat passed is delivered to the Ministry slaughterhouse for distribution. The inspection of casualty carcasses calls for a high degree of skill and experience. The large number of casualties dealt with may be explained by the fact that the District and surrounding area is engaged predominantly in dairy farming with a consequent high animal population.

It is very desirable in the public interest that the inspection of ALL animals slaughtered for human food should continue in the future, and if the Ministry of Food should decide to vary the policy of central slaughtering the Council should not relicence any old slaughterhouse unless they are satisfied (1) that there is a real need for such slaughterhouses and (2) that the premises satisfy the high standard of structure, lairage, water supply, drainage and sewage disposal and sanitary conveniences necessary today.

Animal Health Division.

Close co-operation with veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture has been maintained. Several cases of congenital tuberculosis found in calves have been reported to the Animal Health Division, resulting in most cases in recognition of tuberculosis in the dams which have then been removed from their herds and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Diseases of Animals Acts.

Notification of suspected Anthrax notified during 1952 26

Notifications confirmed as Anthrax 2

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year under review, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Year 1952.

	BEASTS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	TOTAL
Numbers killed	356	1181	2295	4190	1224	9246
Numbers inspected	356	1181	2295	4190	1224	9246

All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses

condemned	7	207	106	13	33	366
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Part carcasses

condemned	163	473	211	413	418	1678
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Percentage affected	47.7	57.5	13.8	10.2	36.8	22.1
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Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses

condemned	2	51	9	—	11	73
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Part carcasses

condemned	37	288	1	—	69	395
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Percentage affected	10.9	28.7	0.4	—	6.5	5.1
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The figures include 4 cows slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, and 24 beasts, 471 cows, 1,671 calves, 98 sheep and 704 pigs dealt with as casualties at three slaughterhouses.

The total weight of carcase meat and offals found by your Food Inspectors to be unfit for human consumption was 78 tons 3 qrs. 1 lb.

Inspection of other Foods.

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 5 cwt. 22 lb.

Cysticercus Bovis.

14 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year. 9 cases in cows and 5 in beasts.

These were sited as follows:—

	EXTERNAL MASSETER MUSCLE	INTERNAL MASSETER MUSCLE	OTHER SITES
Cows	8	1	—
Beasts	4	1	—

Details were sent to the Ministry of Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 5/48. The carcasses were sent for refrigeration for 21 days as recommended by the Ministry.

Licensed Premises.

Routine visits of your inspectors are made to the licensed premises in the District to examine washing facilities and general cleanliness.

Informal action was taken in relation to two premises where facilities for the washing of glasses was inadequate. A second case where catering was carried out resulted in extensive improvement in the kitchen.

During the past few years the standard of hygiene in licensed premises has improved enormously. In the majority of cases not up to a standard the brewery owners have been found very co-operative.

Food Adulteration.

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has been supplied by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Dept., Cheshire County Council, in relation to the year ending Dec. 31st, 1952.

NAME OF SAMPLE	NUMBER OBTAINED	NUMBER ADULTERATED OR NOT UP
		TO THE RECOGNISED STANDARD OF QUALITY
Coffee (Tinned)	1	—
Custard Powder	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Honey	1	—
Jelly, Table, Lemon	1	—
Lemonade, Crystals (Sweetened)	1	—
Meat Paste (Beef and Ham)	1	—
Milk	18	—
Orange Squash	1	—
Saccharin Tablets	1	—
	<hr/> 27 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>

To quote Mr. Hallard: "Not one single sample out of the 27 obtained was reported against, a highly satisfactory result."

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS , 1928-36

Petroleum Stores.

The Council is responsible for conditions under which petroleum spirit or mixtures are stored in the District. Close co-operation is maintained with the County Fire Brigade who periodically inspect stores of inflammable materials under the Fire Services Act 1948. Reports on defects in storage conditions are received occasionally. The Council enforce the provisions of the Petroleum Act but no formal notices were served during the year.

Number of existing licences to store renewed in 1952	92
Number of new stores inspected and licenced	7
Number of transfers of licences	2
Total number of licenced stores on the Register at December, 1952	99

National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 50. (Burial of the Dead.)

No action was called for during 1952 under the above Section of the Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The licensing of any premises including a stall or market barrow, where pet animals are sold is a duty of this Council.

No licences under the Act have been granted during the year.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

No applications for registration under the Act were received during the year.

There are certain upholsterers in the District who repair soft furnishings, but at present they are excluded from the requirement to register.

Local Legislation.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3 (adopted Aug. 12th, 1899).

Building Byelaws — adopted September 2nd, 1939.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health
Committee



ANNUAL REPORT

1952

Dr. WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(Divisional Medical Officer)



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Chester.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH SERVICES OF SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 1952

INTRODUCTION

Councillor S. Grimshaw of Chester Rural District Council retired from the Chairmanship of the Committee, which he had held during the previous year. He was succeeded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor J. Groome of Ellesmere Port Urban District Council. Councillor Grimshaw was elected Vice-Chairman.

The Committee has held ten Meetings during the year, the average attendance being sixteen members out of a total of thirty-seven.

The Division comprises Ellesmere Port and Hoole Urban Districts and Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts. The total population, according to the provisional figures taken in 1952, was 81,914 and the area is 116,086 acres, which is the equivalent of 0.70 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is 22,947, and the combined rateable value is approximately £480,000.

Generally, the work of the Committee has continued to expand. With the completion of repairs to the Village Hall at Ince, this building is now available for use as a Child Welfare Centre, and it is hoped soon to establish a Clinic there.

The work of the Ambulance Service showed marked increases in the number of patients carried by, and the total mile-ages of, both County owned ambulances and sitting case cars. Such increases were accompanied by considerable reductions in the use of agency services, private hire cars, etc.

With reference to the medical statistics included in the Report, it is interesting to note that the number of births notified in the Division increased by about 14 per cent, compared with the previous year. There was an increase of cases on the tuberculosis register, both of pulmonary and non-pulmonary types. The General Notification of Infectious Diseases showed little variation from the previous year, except for an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough, mainly in Ellesmere Port. There was an actual reduction in the number of cases of measles in the Division, in spite of a severe epidemic in Ellesmere Port, where the numbers were much greater than in 1951.

Attendance figures at both Day Nurseries are lower than in the previous year. This was due in part to the prevalence of infectious disease in the first half of the year. In the latter half of the year the figures remain low, possibly owing to the fact that less employment was available for women in the neighbourhood. Increased charges for the admission of children, which came into force in October, may also have some influence on attendances.

There was further considerable expansion in the Domestic Help Service, with the consequent and inevitable rise in expenditure, and in spite of directives from the County Finance and Health Committees for stringent economy. Towards the latter part of the year the Committee found it necessary severely to restrict and curtail the Service in an endeavour to keep within the estimated expenditure.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Report for Year ended 31st December, 1952

N.H.S. ACT, 1946 (Section 22)—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

A. Mothers Clinics.

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
Ante-Natal	477	2,809
Post-Natal	121	150
Dental:		
Pre-Natal	3	5
Nursing Mothers	4	7
Dentures supplied		—

B. Young Children's Clinics.

	NEW CASES	TOTAL ATTENDANCES
(1) Infant Welfare—		
To 1 year	941	10,012
1-5 years	212	3,757
(2) Specialist—		
Ophthalmic	42	142
Dental Treatment (under 5)	94	114
E.N.T. (under 5)	48	70

(3) Day Nurseries	DAILY			
	AVERAGE			
	NUMBER	TOTAL		
	ATTENDING	ATTENDANCES		
Aged 0-2 years	15	3,910		
2-5 years	48	13,400		
Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given hereunder.				
Eye Clinics—	NEW	TOTAL		
	CASES	ATTENDANCES		
Hoole	6	18		
Ellesmere Port	36	124		
Totals	42	142		
Number of Children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed		14		
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment		10		
Ante and Post-Natal Clinics—				
Hoole—				
Ante-Natal	28	59		
Post-Natal	29	56		
Ellesmere Port—				
Ante-Natal	449	2,750		
Post-Natal	88	94		
Day Nurseries—	DAILY			
	AVERAGE			
	NUMBER	TOTAL		
	ATTENDING	ATTENDANCES		
Ellesmere Port—				
Aged 0-2 years	14	2,890		
Aged 2-5 years	22	5,721		
Little Sutton—				
Aged 0-2 years	4	1,020		
Aged 2-5 years	26	6,679		
Welfare Centres—				
	NEW	CASES	TOTAL	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5
Barrow	12	—	175	104
Ellesmere Port	394	115	2,935	1,665
Farndon	23	6	194	148
Hoole	146	9	1,478	309
Huntington	20	6	162	161
Kelsall	37	10	426	245
Little Sutton	81	14	1,268	397

Malpas	25	5	224	164
Overpool	69	43	597	249
Saughall	40	4	466	179
Tarvin	19	4	258	188
Tattenhall	28	12	271	249
Upton	47	10	558	299
Totals	941	212	10,012	3,757

SPECIAL COMMENTS

WELFARE CENTRES AND DAY NURSERIES

Welfare Centres.

The exterior decorating of Hoole Welfare Centre was carried out, together with some interior plastering and major repairs.

The Ellesmere Port Welfare Centre was broken into by three boys who caused damage to windows and door locks. The Police were called in and the culprits were later apprehended.

Arrangements were made with the Ministry of Food for publicising the availability of National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice at the Farndon Welfare Centre.

Towards the end of the year the Village Hall at Ince became available for use as a Welfare Centre, and it was recommended to the County Health Committee that a Welfare Centre be provided for two sessions per month, at a rental of 15/- per session. It was also agreed that, subject to such approval being obtained, a sum not exceeding £60 be expended on the purchase of the necessary equipment for the Centre.

Day Nurseries.

The water system at both Nurseries was investigated by the Chairman and the District Architect. It was found that the existing system was inadequate, and tenders were obtained for substituting larger boilers.

The charges for admission to the Day Nurseries were increased, and varied as from 1st October.

A visit of inspection was paid to the Ellesmere Port Nursery by a Public Health Nursing Officer and H.M. Inspector of Training of Nursing Assistants.

The attendance figures at Ellesmere Port were kept low during the first half of the year due to the Nursery being in quarantine as a result of chicken pox and the prevalence of whooping cough, measles and mumps. Little Sutton Nursery was affected by a wave of mumps and whooping cough during the

June Quarter, but otherwise the general health of both children and staff has been good.

A comparative Statement on the costs of Day Nurseries for the year ended 31st March, 1952, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child at the two Nurseries during the year was as follows:—

Ellesmere Port	9/10 ³ / ₄ d. (1950/51—10/8 ¹ / ₄ d.)
Little Sutton	9/9d. (1950/51—10/4d.)

Toys to the value of £10, were purchased for each of the two Nurseries, and successful Christmas parties were held for the children.

(SECTION 23)

MIDWIVES

Number of births (adjusted for inward and outward transfers)—
1,720 (including 40 Stillbirths.)

Transport.

It was recommended to the County Health Committee that a new car be provided for the District Nurse/Midwife at Mouldsworth, and, pending delivery of same, a factory reconditioned engine be fitted in the present car and repairs carried out.

A new Ford Anglia Saloon 8 h.p. car was delivered to the County Midwife at Upton.

(SECTION 25)

HOME NURSING

The District Nurse of Aldford had an accident with her car, which resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle. Repairs were effected, and in the meantime the Nurse hired a car from the local Garage Proprietor at a cost of 7¹/₂d. per mile.

Repairs were carried out to the car of the District Nurse, Tarvin, and a reconditioned engine obtained.

(SECTION 26)

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1.1.52 — 31.12.52 amounted to £462 10s. 0d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. Vaccination.	Males.	Females	Total
1. Primary Vaccination—			
(1) Pre-School Children	227	236	463
(2) School Children	9	13	22
(3) Adults	6	18	24
Total	242	267	509

2. Re-Vaccination.

(1) Pre-School Children	—	1	1
(2) School Children	5	3	8
(3) Adults	48	71	119
Total	53	75	128

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Incomplete.

(1) Pre-School Children	107	114	221
(2) School Children	71	79	150
Total	178	193	371

Completed.

(1) Pre-School Children	300	314	614
(2) School Children	21	8	29
Total	321	322	643

Re-Immunisation.

All Children	888	919	1,807
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C. OTHER IMMUNISATION (e.g. Whooping Cough).

(1) Pre-School Children	63	61	124
(2) School Children	7	3	10
Total	70	64	134

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1952.

(SECTION 27)

AMBULANCE SERVICE

	No. of Vehicles	Total No. of Journeys	Total No. Patients carried	No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3	Total Mileage
	1	2	3	4	5
A. Directly (Amb.)	4	2741	6070	362	71761
Provided (Cars)	2	1354	3356	19	53658
B. By Agency (Amb.)	5	799	799	149	7810
(Cars)	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Amb.)					
C. Supplementary					
(Amb.)	—	—	—	—	—
W.V.S. Taxi, (Cars,					
etc.)	—	312	431	—	8984

It will be observed from the Table set out below that mileage performed by vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service has greatly increased during the past year.

	Mileage 1951	Mileage 1952
C.C.C. Ambulances	51593	71761
C.C.C. Cars	43007	53658
Totals	<u>94600</u>	<u>125419</u>

On 31st January, 1952, a new Bedford Lomas Ambulance was supplied to the Division, and the staff establishment was in consequence increased by one Ambulance Driver and one Attendant.

Following upon a report on the mileage and the general condition of the Standard Sitting Case Car JMA.241, this vehicle was sold for a sum of £375, plus a licence refund of £4 3s. 4d., and a new Austin Car 16 h.p. was obtained as a replacement.

The question of providing suitable toilet facilities at the Ambulance Depot was investigated, and it was decided that, whilst it was not practicable to provide such facilities at present, the concern of the Divisional Health Committee at the general condition of the Ambulance Depot be conveyed to the County Health Committee.

Two sterile dressing drum packs were purchased at a cost of £5 10s. 0d. in readiness for a major emergency.

Arising from a complaint received in connection with a request for an ambulance, a Sub-Committee was formed to investigate the existing arrangements for the manning of the Ambulance Depot and the summoning of ambulances, and it was decided that under the circumstances no effective alteration could be made to the present system.

Two Ambulance Drivers and one Attendant resigned to take up other employment; two Attendants were promoted to drivers and three Attendants were appointed to fill the existing vacancies.

Two Diplomas and one Special Bar were awarded to three members of the Staff for safe driving.

The rate of subsistence allowances for personnel away from the Depot for any length of time was increased.

The establishment of vehicles and personnel as fixed by the Divisional Committee and approved by the County Staffing Committee is as follows:—

Vehicles		Personnel	
Ambulances	4	Senior Driver	1
Sitting Case Cars	2	Ambulance Drivers	3
		Ambulance Attendants	4
		Sitting Case Car Drivers	2
		Part Time Drivers	2
	<hr/> 6 <hr/>		<hr/> 12 <hr/>

(SECTION 28)

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE. TUBERCULOSIS.

A. Number of Cases investigated in Division:—

(1) **Tuberculosis—**

- (a) No. of forms C. & A.C. 4 completed 42
(Primary Investigation).
- (b) No. of forms C. & A.C. 22 completed 229
(Follow-up Visits).
- (c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:
 - (a) Removed from area 8
 - (b) Been cured 7
 - (c) Died 14

(2) **Other than Tuberculosis** 45

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. Number of Cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act) 1
(Handyman at Ellesmere Port Day Nursery).

C. Particulars of loans of nursing equipment, charges made and details of applicants unable to pay full amount:—

Two sectional Dunlopillo mattresses were purchased during the year for the use of special patients. In one case of a paraplegic, arrangements were made for the provision of a ramp to the front door to facilitate exit and entry in a wheel chair.

Repairs were effected to a chalet in the possession of a tuberculosis patient for the sum of £20.

Arrangements were made for the admission of two cases into a Convalescent Home under the County Council Scheme. The full costs were paid in each case by the patient.

Statistics relating to cases of Tuberculosis on Notification Registers of District Councils in the Division.

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTALS				
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total Cases			
1. Cases on Register at 1.1.52	183	79	262	177	67	244	360	146	506
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year	35	7	42	31	6	37	66	13	79
3. No. of cases removed from register during year	17	1	18	11	1	12	28	2	30
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.52	201	85	286	197	72	269	398	157	555*

*This figure is made up as follows:—

	PULMONARY	NON- PULMONARY	TOTAL
1. Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	196	72	268
2. Hoole U.D.C.	47	10	57
3. Chester R.D.C.	86	32	118
4. Tarvin R.D.C.	69	43	112
Totals	398	157	555

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED 1952

DISTRICT	DISEASE																																										
	Scarlet Fever.				Whooping Cough.				Acute Poliomyelitis.				Measles.				Acute Pneumonia.				Dysentery.				Food Poisoning.				Ophthalmia Neonatorum.				Erysipelas.				Meningococcal Infection.				Puerperal Pyrexia.		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F									
Ellesmere Port U.D.	9	15	115	147	—	—	—	—	247	244	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
Hoole U.D.	5	3	5	12	—	—	—	—	19	19	4	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
Chester R.D.	3	7	35	19	1	1	43	31	5	3	—	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
Tarvin R.D.	2	5	20	15	—	—	—	69	54	20	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—									
Totals.	19	30	175	193	1	1	378	348	31	15	—	1	2	4	—	1	6	7	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1										

(SECTION 29)

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

There has been a considerable increase in the number of applications for Domestic Helps and the number of cases attended in the Divisional Area. A review of these cases shows that over 40 per cent of the cases attended during the financial year 1951/52 were old age pensioners. A total of 72,410 hours were performed and contributions were received to the amount of £1,504 0s. 0d. The total cost to the County Council on these cases amounted to approximately £8,000.

Every effort was made, in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the Service.

A. Number of new Applicants	178
B. Number of Domestic Helps working:—	
(a) Permanent	1
(b) Temporary	106
C. Number of cases attended	199
D. Special Cases for Report	12

Twelve cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year. In three cases, no reduction was allowed; in three cases the contribution was reduced, and no contribution was required to two cases. One case of long standing arrears was written off as irrecoverable, one case was referred to the Police for the necessary investigation, one case was referred to the County Treasurer, and the last case was referred to the Clerk of the County Council to take steps to recover the arrears.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out two visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1951 and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE

The Deputy Chairman attended a meeting of a Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee and Chairmen of the various Divisional Health Committees to investigate economies in the cost of Welfare Clinics in the County.

DIVISIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Following the resignation of Miss J. M. Nunnerley to take up an appointment with the County Education Department, the Chairman appointed Miss R. M. Adams as General Division Clerk. The Committee expressed their appreciation of the services of Miss Nunnerley and good wishes for success in her new post.

ESTIMATES 1953/54

Estimates for the year 1953/54 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

	£
Welfare Centres	3,095
Day Nurseries	3,305
Midwifery	100
Health Visiting	20
Home Nursing	1,570
Vaccination and Immunisation	545
Ambulance Service	5,275
Prevention of Illness, Care & After-Care	345
Domestic Helps	6,300
Administration	3,550
	<hr/>
	£24,105
	<hr/>

